Shortage of Fodder

†4138. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of fodder for cattle in the various parts of the country due to shortfall of rain;

(b) if so, whether cows have died in the State of Gujarat also due to shortage of fodder;

(c) if so, whether Government of Gujarat have asked to grant from Government to solve this problem;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have taken any decision so far in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The following amounts have also been released by the Central Government in the wake of National Calamity relief;

1999-2000

Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 121.05 crores.

Assistance of Rs. 54.58 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

2000-2001

Two quarterly instalments of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 87.42 crores.

Fall in Foodgrain Production

4139. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-items titled "Survey predicts fall in foodgrain production" appearing in the Indian Express, dated 29th February, 2000;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that a four million ton fall in foodgrain production is predicted during the current year as per the Economic Survey 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore specially when we had been self-sufficient in food production during past years; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to retrieve the old position with regard to foodgrain production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimates provided in the Economic Survey 1999-2000 have since been updated and the total foodgrain production this year is expected to be 201.56 million tonnes which will be only 1.48 million tonnes less than last year. This marginal decline is mainly due to prolonged dry spell in several parts of the country adversely affected crop condition in several states. In spite of this, the foodgrains production in the country is expected to reach above 200 million tonnes mark.

(d) Review of production is a continuous process. To increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country the Government is implementing centrally sponsored integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat coarse cereals. Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations of farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Gujarat

4140. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave problem relating to potable water in Kutch and Saurashtra areas of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have provided financial assistance to the State Government to solve the problem of drought and potable water in these areas;